

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the Abstract in clean form below. A marked-up version of the Abstract as amended is attached hereto.

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A laser marking system for IC packages including a tray input shuttle assembly and a tray transport borne by a transport actuator for moving a tray carrier carrying a tray of unmarked packaged ICs received from the tray input shuttle assembly to a tray output shuttle assembly over a transport actuator path extending under an open-bottomed enclosure of a laser marking station. The tray input shuttle assembly, laser marking station and tray output shuttle assembly each has associated therewith a lift mechanism for raising and lowering the tray carrier relative to the transport so as to facilitate tray loading of the tray carrier from the tray input shuttle assembly, insertion and withdrawal of the tray carrier bearing a tray of packaged ICs for marking into and out of the marking station and unloading of a tray of marked packaged ICs from the tray carrier to the output shuttle assembly.